



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q77449

Sakae NAKASUJI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/660/692

Group Art Unit: 1771

Confirmation No.: 7660

Examiner: Cheryl Ann Juska

Filed: September 12, 2003

For: FLOOR MAT FOR AUTOMOBILE

February 10, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of the listed document is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

An English language abstract of the cited foreign language document is submitted herewith, and furthermore a concise explanation regarding the cited foreign language document is set forth below.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/660,692

JP 2001-161541 (document (A))

The document (A) discloses a tufted product wherein a nonwoven fabric as a second ground fabric (7) is bonded through an adhesive agent (6) to the back surface of a tufted pile raw cloth (5) formed by tufting piles (3) on a primary ground fabric (2) (see English abstract).

One of the problems to be solved by the tufted product disclosed in the document (A) is to improve air permeability (paragraph [0004]). The excellent air permeability is achieved by an open-cell structure having a foaming magnification within a specific range and formed in the adhesive agent layer (paragraph [0007]) and the nonwoven fabric as the second ground fabric (paragraph [0009]).

Regarding the air permeability of the tufted product disclosed in document (A) as a whole, values between “15.2 mL/cm²/sec.” (Example 6) and “20.7 mL/cm²/sec.” (Example 5) are disclosed in Examples 1 to 10 of the document (A). In addition, tufted products prepared in Comparative Examples 1 to 3 of the document (A) exhibit values between “10.8 mL/cm²/sec.” (Comparative Example 1) and “23.3 mL/cm²/sec.” (Comparative Example 3).

In this connection, the air permeability of the mixture layer in the floor mat for an automobile of the present invention is 0.1 to 10 mL/cm²/sec, which is lower than that of the tufted product disclosed in document (A). If the tufted product disclosed in document (A) contained a mixture layer having an air permeability of 0.1 to 10 mL/cm²/sec, the air permeability of the tufted product as a whole would not be more than 10 mL/cm²/sec. It is thus concluded that the tufted product disclosed in the document (A) does not contain a mixture layer having an air permeability of 0.1 to 10 mL/cm²/sec. Therefore, the tufted product disclosed in

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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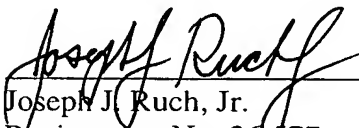
document (A) is different from the floor mat for an automobile of the present invention, with respect to the absence or presence of the mixture layer.

In addition, it is not possible to form the mixture layer having an air permeability of 0.1 to 10 mL/cm²/sec in the tufted product disclosed in the document (A), because one of the problems to be solved by the tufted product is to improve air permeability. Further, the floor mat for an automobile of the present invention exhibits both an excellent sound insulation property and an excellent sound absorption property. The advantageous effects in the present invention are not expected from the disclosure of document (A). Therefore, the floor mat for an automobile of the present invention is not obvious from the disclosure of document (A).

The submission of the listed document is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph J. Ruch, Jr.
Registration No. 26,377

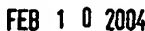
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 10, 2004



Complete if Known

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/660,692
Confirmation Number	7660
Filing Date	September 12, 2003
First Named Inventor	NAKASUJI, Sakae
Art Unit	1771
Examiner Name	Cheryl Ann Juska
Attorney Docket Number	Q77449

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.